



01-01-04

IFW #

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

Larry D. Powell, et al)	Patent Examiner: Victor N. Sakran
Serial No.: 10/647,671)	
Filed: August 25, 2003)	Group Art Unit: 3677
For: CLAMPING CLIP FOR)	
BUNDLED SINUOUS WIRE)	
_____)	

Charlotte, North Carolina, September 8, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

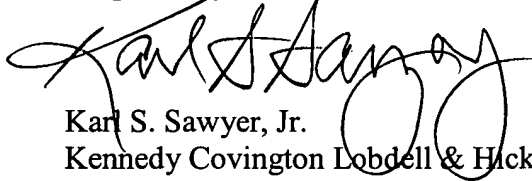
In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed July 12, 2004, the applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to continue prosecution in the present application claims 1-9 drawn to a clip device.

However, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. It is respectfully submitted that device claims 1-9 and method claims 10-15 are related in that each concern the bundling of sinuous wire via a clip device and, in turn, any search for the device would necessarily include a search for the method, and vice versa. Thus, a simultaneous search for both groups of claims is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner. In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search was conducted simultaneously for both groups of claims. Finally, the necessity to the applicant of filing multiple patent applications for the claims in this case does not serve to promote the public interest due to the extra expense that is involved in filing fees and examination costs, as well as

the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in different patents that otherwise could be found in only one issued patent.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that examination on the merits of all claims proceed. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.
Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman, LLP
214 N. Tryon Street
Hearst Tower, 47th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Telephone (704) 331-5792
-- Attorney for Applicant

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Typed Name: Donna B. Millard

Signature: Donna B. Millard